

CLAIMS

1. A drug delivery composition comprising a HPMC capsule containing the drug and wherein the HPMC capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is not released from the capsule in the stomach.

5 2. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the HPMC capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominately released from the capsule in the small intestine.

3. A drug delivery composition according to claim 1, wherein the HPMC capsule is provided with a coating such that the drug is predominately released from the capsule in the colon and/or terminal ileum.

10 4. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprised a material which dissolves at a pH of 5.5 or above.

5. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating comprises a material which dissolves at a pH 7 or above.

15 6. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises cellulose acetate trimellitate (CAT).

7. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate (HPMCP).

20 8. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises polyvinyl acetate phthalate (PVAP).

9. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises shellac.

10. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methylmethacrylate (Eudragit L ®).

25 11. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises a material which is redox-sensitive.

12. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises an azopolymer or a disulphide polymer.

13. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises a material which is degraded by enzymes or bacteria present in the colon.

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14. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises a copolymer of methacrylic acid and methylmethacrylate to which has been added during polymerisation the monomer methyl acrylate.

10 15. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises a cellulose ester.

16. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating composition comprises polyvinyl acetate phthalate.

15 17. A drug delivery composition according to claim 2 wherein the coating is applied in the range 5-15mg per cm<sup>2</sup> of capsule surface.

18. A drug delivery composition according to claim 3 wherein the coating is applied in the range 5-20mg per cm<sup>2</sup> of capsule surface.

19. A drug delivery system according to claim 2 wherein the drug is one which is effective in the small intestine.

20 20. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein the drug is one which acts locally in the colon.

21. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein the coating is applied separately to empty HPMC capsule body and cap.

25 22. A drug delivery system according to claim 21 wherein the HPMC capsule body is coated with an insoluble polymer and the cap is enteric or colonic coated.

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- 23. A drug delivery system according to claim 22 wherein the water insoluble polymer is ethyl cellulose.
- 24. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein two equal HPMC capsule halves are filled with a caplet.
- 5 25. A drug delivery system according to claim 24 wherein the coating is applied separately to equal empty HPMC capsule halves.
- 26. A drug delivery system according to claim 24 wherein one half is enteric coated and the other halve is colonic coated.
- 10 27. A drug delivery system according to claim 24 wherein one half is coated with an insoluble polymer and the other half is enteric or colonic coated.
- 28. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein the stomach resistant coating is applied to HPMC capsules having a first coating of a water soluble polyvinyl alcohol.
- 15 29. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein the HPMC capsule is coated with a film which is non-dissolving at pH < 3 to 4 and dissolving at pH > 5.5.
- 30. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein the HPMC content of the capsule shell is in the range of from 10 to 90 % by weight.
- 20 31. A drug delivery system according to claim 1 wherein stomach resistant coating is applied to HPMC capsules having a sealing on the gap between capsule body and cap.